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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, ESTC, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS REPORTS U.S. EXPORT CONTROL
ACTIONS

SUMMARY: WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO DENY SPERRY-UNIVAC
COMPUTER SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND TO PLACE BROAD
RANGE OF OIL DRILLING TECHNOLOGY UNDER UMBRELLA OF
EXPORT CONTROL ACT HAS EVOKED SHARP RESPONSE IN
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SOVIET PRESS. AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA
PIECES ASSAIL MOVE AS "ONE MORE MANIFESTATION OF A
COURSE TOWARD THE DELIBERATE WORSENING OF RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR." PRESIDENTIAL, CABINET, AND BUSINESS
COMMUNITY STATEMENTS MARSHALLED IN ATTACK ON "DIS-
CRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS" ON TRADE. CURRENT MOVE
ATTRIBUTED TO ADHERENTS OF A "HARD LINE" WHO HAVE

FAILED TO LEARN LESSONS OF COLD WAR. END SUMMARY.

1. WHITE HOUSE DENIAL OF AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR SALE OF SPERRY-UNIVAC COMPUTER TO SOVIET UNION IS ATTACKED IN VISHNEVSKIY ARTICLE "AN ATTEMPT WITH UNSUITABLE MEANS" IN PRAVDA JULY 20. VISHNEVSKIY REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO COMPUTER DECISION THE PRESIDENT HAS IMPOSED A "LIMITATION" ON THE DELIVERY TO THE SOVIETS OF "DRILLING EQUIPMENT" AND CITING UPI REPORT, ASSERTS THAT ALL US TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT BOUND FOR THE USSR IS NOW PLACED IN THE EXPORT CONTROL LIST. "EVERY DEAL INVOLVING THE SALE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT HAS TO BE PERSONALLY APPROVED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT."

2. VISHNEVSKIY FINDS WHITE HOUSE ACTION A "STRIKING" CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY, IN CONTRAST TO "WIDESPREAD MOVEMENT" IN U.S. IN RECENT YEARS TOWARD "ALL KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BUSINESS TIES" WITH THE USSR. HE CITES PRESIDENT'S REMARKS "ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO" IN FAVOR OF CLOSER RELATIONS, AS WELL AS HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT CRITICAL OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. CABINET MEMBERS ARE HELD TO HAVE SPOKEN OF THE DESIRABILITY OF ABOLISHING DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS, AND BUSINESS WEEK IS CITED TO EFFECT THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WILL DAMAGE U.S. INTERESTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISHNEVSKIY WONDERS WHY ACTION TAKEN AT A TIME WHEN U.S. ECONOMY IS IN SUCH A MESS AND FURTHER "FRIGHTFUL" TRADE DEFICIT IS EXPECTED. CITING NEW YORK TIMES, HE ATTRIBUTES WHITE HOUSE ACTION TO BRZEZINSKI AND SCHLESINGER, WHO ARE LABELLED ADHERENTS OF "HARD LINE."

3. MATVEEV COMMENTARY "ACCORDING TO THE RECIPES OF THE COLD WAR" IN IZVESTIYA JULY 19 SHARPLY CRITICIZES AMERICAN POLITICIANS WHO HAVE FAILED TO LEARN THE LESSONS OF THE COLD WAR ON THE FUTILITY OF TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE ECHOES THEMES THAT INFLUENTIAL U.S. BUSINESS LEADERS ARE CONCERNED BY TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS CAN ONLY HARM THE INTERESTS OF UNITED STATES ITSELF.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SHARPER THAN USUAL IN EXPLICIT NAMING OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SOVIET COMMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH PAST TREATMENT OF U.S. TRADE RESTRICTIONS. USUAL EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO CITE INFLUENTIAL SEGMENTS OF U.S. PUBLIC

OPINION -- ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY --
AS MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF ABOLITION OF TRADE RESTRIC-
TIONS, OPPOSED BY HANDFUL WHO WISH RETUUN TO COLD
WAR. ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF SOVIET RESPONSE
IS FAILURE TO ALLUDE TO ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
MOST RECENT WHITE HOUSE ACTION AND U.S. RESPONSE TO
SOVIET HANDLING OF DISIDENT TRAILS. MATLOCK

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